

DOE REVIEW
COMPLETED

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.

The exceptional and highly meritorious contribution of Dr. Scoville to the use and control of atomic energy is best presented in the form of a resume of his responsibilities and activities in his two major federal assignments.

Dr. Scoville served as Technical Director of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project (successor to the Manhattan Engineering District and now the Defense Atomic Support Agency) from June 1948 to August 1953. He was scientific advisor to the Chief, AFSWP, on all technical matters relating to the development, use, effects and defense against atomic weapons; and planned and directed research and development programs in atomic weapons fields. (Concurrently he served as a member of the Chemical Corps Advisory Council, the Committee on Nuclear Science of the Department of the Air Force, and the Advisory Committee on Civil Defense of the National Research Council.)

In nominating Dr. Scoville for the Arthur S. Flemming Award in December 1950, Major General K. D. Nichols, Chief, AFSWP, cited Dr. Scoville's wide technical experience and his advice "on many highly classified aspects of the military atomic program which includes radiological warfare" and "in connection with the development of atomic weapons, including bombs of all types, and other methods of employing atomic energy as a weapon". He further pointed out that radiological warfare was a new and exceptionally technical subject of relatively unknown potentialities and that "the evaluation of the military worth of this weapon has, largely through the assistance of Dr. Scoville, been conducted on a sound technical basis, combined with logic and practicality". He also cited Dr. Scoville's "full appreciation of military thinking and his clear perception of the military, as well as the scientific problems" and that he had "accomplished a great deal to bring these problems and thoughts of the military and scientific (sic) to a common ground of understanding and this, in itself, is one of the finest of his accomplishments". Also in that year the Director of Civilian Personnel informed the Assistant Secretary of the Army that Dr. Scoville had attained "a position of pre-eminence in the military services on matters

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of radiological defense and is the leading authority on the analysis of radiation information which has been made available to the armed services as the result of the atomic tests at Operations CROSSROADS and SANDSTONE".

In June 1952, Rear Admiral W. K. Mendenhall, Deputy Chief, AFSWP, in commending Dr. Scoville as "the scientist directly responsible for the accomplishment of the weapons effects programs" stated that "the successful accomplishment of the several programs involving many fields of science was in a large degree dependent upon your clear insight into the problems, your ability to coordinate the activities of many laboratories, your scientific guidance to the groups and your own hard work". In October 1952 the Department of the Army conferred on Dr. Scoville its Commendation of Meritorious Service for his work in the nuclear weapons field.

In August 1953, Major General A. R. Luedcke, Chief, AFSWP, stated that Dr. Scoville "kept himself abreast of new developments in the atomic energy field to a marked degree" and "through his own efforts and his tremendous capacity for absorbing knowledge, he is considered one of the outstanding experts in the fields of atomic weapons development and weapons effects....and because of his guidance, advice, and direction, the research programs of AFSWP have been exceptionally successful in providing useful data to increase the Project's knowledge of effects of atomic weapons". Major General P. W. Clarkson expressed his "sincere appreciation" for Dr. Scoville in May 1954 for his contribution to the success of Operation CASTLE during which in the forward area as a consultant to Commander, Task Unit 13, he was called upon "to organize and lead a team in making a radiological survey of certain remote atolls". Later in 1954, Dr. Scoville was detailed to the Office of Defense Mobilization on the Technological Capabilities Panel in an "assignment undertaken at the request of the President". In April 1955, Arthur S. Flemming, Director of Defense Mobilization, wrote Dr. Scoville: "The President has requested me to express to you his own deep appreciation for the outstanding service rendered over a period of the past few months under the leadership of Dr. Killian....All of us who have had the opportunity of examining the results of your work feel that you have made an outstanding contribution to the security of our nation".

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With his specialized knowledge and experience in atomic weapons he was able upon his appointment as Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, CIA, to grasp quickly the need for more substantive intelligence in depth on foreign nuclear capabilities and potentialities. Through his Chairmanship of the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee and his excellent rapport with the scientific community, he was able to marshal the resources of science and technology with those of the intelligence community to obtain unprecedented intelligence information while overcoming the tremendous obstacles of foreign countermeasures. Because of the forcefulness of his personality and drive, his professional standing as a senior scientific intelligence officer, and his position as a consultant to the President's Science Advisory Committee, he was able to open a channel to the top echelons of Government. Here this new, solid scientific intelligence created a greater awareness of the threat to the security of the United States from foreign nuclear programs and had significant influence on National security policies affecting both international position and defense programs.

When scientific intelligence moved into the new field of arms limitation, Dr. Scoville was called upon to take a leading role in development of the technical facts which are critical to inspection and policing agreements. As a member of the United States Delegation to the Geneva Conference of Experts in 1958, he supported the front line negotiations considering the scientific and technical aspects of compliance with a possible treaty on the discontinuance of nuclear tests. Since the first Geneva session he has been called upon as the most knowledgeable scientist in the Government as to the capabilities of both the United States and foreign governments in the field of atomic energy to furnish essential scientific and technological information upon which realistic negotiations can be based.

In the fall of 1962 the President recognized his pre-eminence by appointing him chairman of a committee to assess the U. S. atomic weapons posture as to stockpiles, yields, state of the art and possible break-through vis-a-vis that of other nations and to arrive at a net evaluation.

In recognition of Dr. Scoville's accomplishments on the frontiers of scientific intelligence, he was promoted in February 1962 to Deputy Director (Research).